

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai Chairman Federal Communications Commission 455 12th Street, Southwest Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to express Millbrae Community Television's concern about and disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, MB Docket 05-311.

MCTC strongly opposes the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM), which proposes to allow cable companies to deduct the fair market value for a wide range of public benefits from their franchise fee obligations, namely public, educational, and government (PEG) channel capacity and transmission.

MCTV has a strong and long-lasting relationship with the City of Millbrae and provides an invaluable opportunity for our homebound senior citizen population to watch community meetings and engage with their local government. It also streams meetings on multiple platforms so working residents who cannot be at City Hall for meetings may watch online. MCTV also covers more than 100 important educational, cultural and newsworthy community events each year.

This local presence enables the residents of Millbrae, CA to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining "franchise fee" in an overly broad fashion to include "in-kind" support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,
Dana Sahae
Executive Director
Millbrae Community Television